

## **Andrew Jackson to Francis Preston Blair, March 3, 1845, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.**

class=MsoNormal>TO FRANCIS P. BLAIR.

Hermitage, March 3, 1845.

My dear Mr. Blair, Your letter of the 21<sup>st</sup> of February is just received. My dear Sarah was sitting with me, A. Jacksons down at his place—getting into full operation the wood yard. When I read you[r] letter, she, as well as myself, could not refrain from a burst of tears of gratitude to you for this deinterested offer of such liberality and friendship. Mr. A. Jackson jnr has pledged himself that he will not create another debt, of one dollar untill he is clear of his present incumbrances.

But the manner he permitted our last overseer to injure, and swindle him convinced me, that he wanted that energy to deal with designing, and dishonest men necessary for the welfare of a distant plantation where dishonest overseers have so much in their power to cheat, defraud, and injure their employers. But he has assumed a differrent stand with our present overseer, and I trust we will make something from our woodyard. The overseer turned away was under an obligation to have cut and sold as much wood as would cover his own wages and any expence of the plantation. The first year he did well, but finding the woodyard profitable he bought below us a squaters claim of 160 acres, sent for his brother, and established a woodyard, after which there was no wood carried to our bank, a thousand proposals to keep our hands at other business, and which Andrew not seeing the deception acquiesed in, and pored his woodyard on the Boats as ours, after which, what wood was cut on our land was never carried to the river bank. on hearing this, I at once determined to sell the land, pay our debts, and be once more a freeman.

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The plantation is of immense value were we clear of Debt—the wood upon it is worth an immense fortune, and if Andrew had obeyed my advice, and attended to the wood instead of pushing the cotton his debts would have been paid out of the proceeds. I have ten good cutters now at it, and if their labour for one year does not produce a cash capital of \$6000, I will be deceived

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Looking to the advice of Major Lewis, and yours, with your generous, liberal, and more than friendly proposition, and with the earnest solicitation of my dear Sarah, I have determined to postpone for the present until next winter the sale of the land. But my dear Mr. Blair, you must be in receipt of your annual interest or I cannot accept of your liberality. I have thirty bales of cotton to meet present interest coming due, one half of which belongs to Mr. Rives and must be paid. Sarah and myself have computed all the debts that are due and owing by Andrew and for the most part of which I am sponsor, and seven thousand dollars will consolidate our whole debts into your hands and that of Mr. Rives. Now my dear friend, if you have that sum to spare on loan to a stranger, I will take at six percent paying the interest annually and the principle when needed, giving a mortgage upon seventeen hundred acres of Land adjoining the tract of 1180 acres for which you hold the mortgage and on the 51 negroes on the plantation with my bond, secured by my will of all my property here. If you can spare \$7000, as before stated, I will accept of it with those feelings of gratitude that I cannot express, and with that of my dear Sarah that has occasioned, on hearing your letter, a flow of tears that will guarantee, should I die, a faithful compliance with this generous act of yours. Should the amount be more than you can spare on loan then you will please reduce it, down to the sum that may meet your convenience, to loan us. I will leave in your hands the six hundred dollars interest now due, and sell the cotton and apply it to the payment of debts here—this will save the trouble and risk of remittance. The mortgage to be made will be a security to you, a benefit to me, and preserve the property to the payment of Andrew's debts, which I will have regularly made out as soon as I am informed in whose name it is to be made, and duly

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recorded where the land lies and sent to you. My dear friend on the receipt of this let me hear from you. You will have received before this reaches [you] my letter giving to you the unaccountable rumor, that had just reached me thro A. Jackson jnr. In my letter I said to you I had taken a firm and immediate stand to put it down. . . .